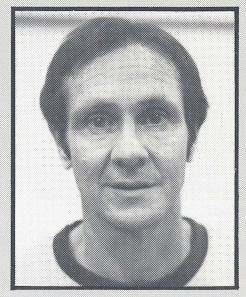
VANNIE EDWARDS
Ladies' Gymnastics Coach



Centenary's girls gymnasts have graded A's on their performance report cards the last three years, starring in regular-season meets across the country and each season claiming a national title.

It's a certainty, then, that the Ladies have possessed some excellent talent in their ranks. But the teacher also deserves his own stars for fielding the top-notch squads season after season.

Coaching girls' gymnastics teams to high finishes is certainly no new task for coach Vannie Edwards. In 14 years of collegiate gymnastics, Edwards-coached teams have claimed 188 wins and lost in dual-meet opposition only five times.

The knowledgeable gymnastics teacher started college coaching at Centenary in a five-year career, from 1964-69. He moved to Southeastern Louisiana for four seasons, then a two-year stint at Southwest Mississippi Junior College.

He returned to coach the Ladies and four seasons later, Centenary's girls are three national championships richer.

Teams coached by Edwards have earned an enviable record in post season work, having never lost a regional championship. The wins stand at 14, with 11 of those against girls from every collegiate level.

He has served as an Olympic coach in the 1964 Tokyo Games, in Mexico City in 1968, '72 in Munich and the '76 Montreal Games. In World Games, he's helped coach the USA squad in 1966, 1970 and 1978.

CENTENARY COLLEGE QUICK FACTS

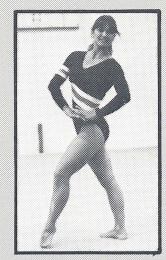
LOCATION: Shreveport, LA 71104
FOUNDED: 1825
PRESIDENT: Dr. Donald A. Webb
DEAN: Dr. Dorothy Gwin
ENROLLMENT: 1070
TEAM NICKNAME: Ladies
COLORS: Maroon, White
CONFERENCE: AIAW — Division II
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Floyd Horgen
GYMNASTICS COACH: Vannie Edwards
EDWARDS' PHONE NUMBERS: 318-378-4482, 378-4295
SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR: Robbie Curry
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PHONE: 318-869-5275
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4188
Shreveport, LA 71104

1981 CENTENARY LADY GYMNASTS: Team members include front row from left, Sue Haynie, Margot Todd, Jessica Soileau and Pam Landry; back row from left, head coach Vannie Edwards, Kim Strauss, Jill Brown and Jennifer Forshee.

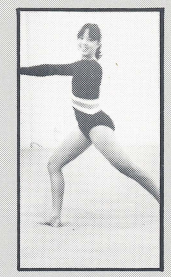
1981 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Friday, Jan. 9	Ark-La-Tex Championships	GOLD DOME
Sat., Jan. 10	Oklahoma, Oral Roberts	GOLD DOME
Friday, Jan. 30	Southern Arkansas Tech, TCU, TWU, Arkansas Southern Mississippi	Camden, Ark.
Sat., Jan. 31	Memphis State	GOLD DOME
Friday, Feb. 6	Arizona, Arizona State, UCLA	Tucson, Ariz.
Friday, Feb. 13	Southern Arkansas Tech	GOLD DOME
Sat., Feb. 14	Auburn	GOLD DOME
Sat., Feb. 21	Oral Roberts	Tulsa, Okla.
Friday, March 6	Memphis State	Memphis, Tenn.
Fri.-Sat., March 13-14	AIAW Regional Championships	(TBA)
Fri.-Sat., March 27-28	AIAW Nationals	(TBA)

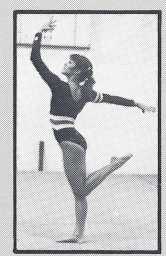
Centenary Lady Gymnastics 1981



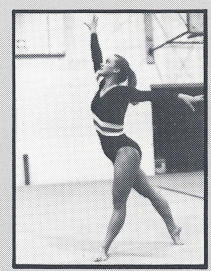
JENNIFER FORSHEE
All-American
Division II



KIM STRAUSS
All-American
Division II



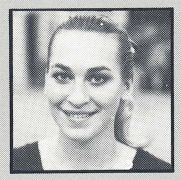
MARGOT TODD
National Champion
Free Exercise
Division II - 1980



JILL BROWN
National Champion
Balance Beam
Division II - 1980

3-Time Division II National Champions 1978-1979-1980

Meet The Ladies . . .



JILL BROWN
5-6, Sophomore, All-Around
Rockwell, Texas

Returning All-American for Centenary as the national balance beam champion . . . finished in top 10 in all-around competition at Division II nationals at Gold Dome last spring . . . good, seasoned performer. . .was lead-off girl for Ladies (first to compete) last year but with loss of Beth Johnson and Karen Edelsten, will move up in lineup . . . has mastered several new vaults since 1980 . . . with her veteran experience, will anchor beam event . . . originally from Benton, Arkansas, and a gymnastics product of Little Rock Gymnastics Center . . . taught there by Bob and Willa Moss, former students of Centenary coach Vannie Edwards.

"Jill is a big girl that moves with a lot of elegance and authority," Edwards said, "what you'd call a 'naturally graceful' individual. Her personality is one lusting for life, and it shows in her gymnastics performance."

JENNIFER FORSHEE
5-6, Sophomore, All-Around
Kirkwood, Missouri

Also a AA returnee for Centenary, off the 1980 Division II national champions . . . earned All-American honors (finished among top six competitors) in four different events at nationals: bars, beam, floor and all-around . . . strongest in bars event but steady in all . . . worked in Denver, Colorado, under coach Dan Yancey. . .former Elite gymnast (top 10% of country's gymnasts).

"Jennifer has really matured as an individual," Edwards said. "She has done an exceptional job of performing under pressure and is a very, very consistent performer. She has considerably more self-confidence in herself as a person now, which should be an asset to her gymnastics."

SUE HAYNIE
5-4, Freshman, All-Around
Shreveport, Louisiana

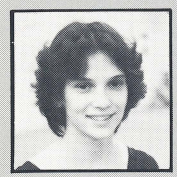
One of only two freshmen on seven-member Lady squad. . .the only local product, finished high school at Trinity Heights . . . state vaulting champion in age group competition (15 and above) . . . no stranger to coaching methods of Edwards, though, in her sixth year under his tutelage . . . grew up with the Olympia program in Belcher, been an Edwards student since the veteran coach returned to Shreveport.

"She is a very pretentious all-around performer who has never quite made it as an Elite but is just ready to burst out and make it in gymnastics," Edwards said. "I personally have as much respect for Sue as any gymnast I've ever coached. I look forward to a successful collegiate career for her."

PAM LANDRY
5-3, Sophomore, All-Around
New Iberia, Louisiana

Although not a member of last year's Lady team, this transfer was also a Division II All-American in 1980 . . . led her University of Denver squad to a runnerup finish behind Centenary in her only season there . . . should really be a plus for 1981 Ladies . . . a New Iberia native who prepped at a school in Houston where she also learned her gymnastics . . . two strongest events are beam and floor.

"Pam is a very elegent and graceful performer, a striking kid," analyzed Edwards. "She is also a good dancer with an exceptional dancing background. I'm looking forward for Pam to become quite an asset for us here at Centenary."



JESSICA SOILEAU
5-5, Freshman, All-Around
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Another new face for the Ladies, joining Shreveporter Sue Haynie as the two lone frosh on the squad . . . although a relative newcomer to gymnastics, Edwards is pleased with the freshman's progress . . . will be Centenary's "sixth man" in team competition.

"She didn't compete much her junior and senior years in high school, and she had no club to work with," Edwards said. "But even though she does not have a great deal of previous experience, Jessica has a lot of talent and an excellent attitude. It's astonishing what she has already picked up. She will add a much needed dimension to our team — depth, which we don't really have. Jessica looks like she's going to be a good performer."

KIM STRAUSS
5-4, Sophomore, All-Around
El Paso, Texas

One of four returning All-Americans for defending champion Ladies, who have won the last three Division II titles . . . also a former Elite participant . . . strongest asset is her mental ability, according to Edwards . . . a strong academic performer as well, the engineering major has a 4.0 average at Centenary.

"Last year, Kim got her act together and did a super job — both collegiately and in USGF (United States Gymnastics Federation) competition at senior nationals," Edwards said. "She has loads of ability and what she was lacking last year in self-confidence, she has now. Kim also has the poise and elegance, the making of a national caliber gymnast."

MARGOT TODD
5-4, Sophomore, All-Around
Albany, Georgia

The Ladies' other returning individual event national champion, in floor exercise, Margot's specialty . . . strong event besides floor is vault . . . worked as Edwards student for three years at Olympia before coming to Centenary . . . will definitely be counted on as a team leader for Ladies in 1981 . . . a former Elite participant.

"Margot definitely found her home in collegiate circles last year," Edwards said. "She is a very good all-around performer who should blossom forth and become even stronger this year."

Season Outlook:

The Champs Begin Again

An athlete may think he or she knows what success really is, but the Centenary Lady gymnastics squad has constantly proven it with steady performances in year-round and national competition the last several years.

And these Centenary athletes, who begin the 1981 season at home hosting a triangular meet in the Gold Dome, carry quality credentials.

The Ladies have more than dominated girls gymnastics on the national level, at least Division II style, the last three years. They won the team championship all three, including the crown in 1980 at the Dome.

As they say, records are made to be broken and Centenary's gymnasts are making those records. Heading into the 1981 season, Centenary has been the winner in their last 17 dual meets (not counting post-season wins).

The very successful gymnastics program is spearheaded by coach Vannie Edwards, who has four of his All-Americans returning from last year's national champion team. Edwards enters his 15th coaching season in girls gymnastics with a sparkling 188-5 record.

"Our strong points," Edwards emphasized, "are experience and depth. And our goal is to do as good a job as we can. We hope we can perform up to our potential and that should assure us of a successful season."

And the dreams of a fourth straight Division II title?

"We certainly won't worry about winning the national championship," Edwards said. "Titles like that are made to be worn, not possessed. And after winning three in a row, you start thinking it's yours — and that tears down the whole system.

"We're wearing the title we won last year proudly, and we're not trying to possess another one. You can put no limitations on success — a winning season or even a national championship.

"I won't box ourselves in," Edwards admitted. "If we perform up to our potential, we will certainly be a worthy contender."

The Centenary Lady coach is ready for the season and the top-notch competition. "My philosophy on competition is you are as good as the company you keep," he said. "And you never know how to respond under pressure until you get under it."